

Museum

Mission Statement

The mission of the Riverside Municipal Museum is to collect, conserve, and interpret the natural and cultural history of the Riverside region through artifacts and public programming, for area residents and visitors, in order to educate and build a sense of place for persons of all generations and cultural backgrounds.

Council Priorities Addressed

- Multicultural Community

Major 2001/02 Priorities

- Renovation of existing Anthropology Gallery as an interdisciplinary and interactive exhibition. Updates will include detailed chronology of Native American cultural evolution; life-size diorama of Native American habitation; rock shelter/cave setting illustrating aspects of ceremonial life; and exterior treatment/out door garden illustrating Native American uses of native plant species.
- Perform feasibility study for relocating the Museum annex function to the Corporation Yard Tool Building.
- Expand existing Nature Lab space to accommodate more visitors and school groups to this informal, hands-on nature study setting.
- Coordinate with the Multicultural Council of the RMA the annual "Family Village Festival: A Multicultural Experience," a celebration of Riverside's diversity, which is presented each year to the public free-of-charge.
- Implement Focus On Kidz programming (school programs, afterschool programs, special events, loan kits, multicultural events)

Programs and Program Goals

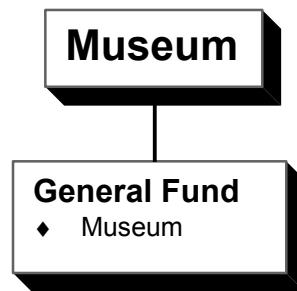
FY 2001/02

Collections Management Program is to provide stewardship of the Museum's valuable and historically significant collections through conservation, acquisitions, and electronic inventory records management services, for the citizens of Riverside and the community, in order to safeguard and document the Museum's holdings for present and future generations.

Education and Public Programming is to provide museum-centered interpretive activities, for Museum audiences of all ages and backgrounds, in order to provide opportunities for learning about the Riverside region through innovative, inclusive, and relevant programming.

Exhibits Program is to provide historically accurate, inclusive, interesting, and interdisciplinary exhibits utilizing the Museum's collections, at the downtown site, Heritage House, the Museum's website, and other offsite venues, for residents and visitors of all ages and backgrounds, in order that they may have opportunity to view the rich and varied holdings of the Riverside Municipal Museum.

Museum



Description of the Service

The Museum Department provides stewardship for two National Historic Register buildings and an artifact collection of 75,000 objects, representing the natural and cultural history of the Riverside region.

A wide variety of services are provided, including: a free public museum featuring long-term and temporary exhibits in the areas of anthropology, history, and natural history; Heritage House, a restored Victorian mansion representative of Riverside's affluent citrus growing community of the 1890's; Nature Lab, an informal, hands-on, natural science learning center; Museum website featuring on-line exhibits and related topics of interest; reference services in the general fields of history, anthropology, life science, earth science and botany; an educational outreach program to serve Riverside schools, service groups, clubs, and shut-ins; and collaboration with other cultural institutions through the Riverside Downtown Museums Consortium, and the Riverside Museum Associates Multicultural Council.

The Museum interprets diversity via strategic commitment to collecting, preserving, and exhibiting artifacts and stories of under-represented communities of ethnicity and color.

Recent Accomplishments

- Awarded a \$112,500 General Operating Support grant from the Institute of Museums and Library Services (IMLS). This grant provides national recognition for museums that have the highest approval of their peers. Funds will be used to complete the computer database of the museum collections; provide seismic stabilization of objects at Heritage House; and advance the Museum/school district partnership.
- In partnership with Riverside Public Library, received unprecedented third-year grant funding from the California State Library in the amount of \$99,000 for the Riverside Local History Resource Center (RLHRC).
- Participated in the IMLS Museum Assessment Program through a guided self-study and intensive on-site peer review by museum professionals in order to evaluate current practices and establish priorities for improving Museum services to the community.
- Exhibited the Museum's renovated paleontology exhibit "Prehistoric Riverside", which brought before the public for the first time collections of fossil specimens of extinct animals and plants that had been excavated from sites in and around the city. Research in preparation for the exhibit shed new light on a long-treasured Museum diorama, pinpointing the exact locale used by an artist in the 1950s to create a convincing view of the panoply of prehistoric life in the region.
- Awarded \$20,000 from the South Coast Air Quality Management District Children's Museum Initiative No. 8 for funding of Fall 2002 children's programming on air pollution.
- Received supplemental budget appropriation of \$146,046 for Focus on Kidz. This will provide increased staff and expanded children's programming, including school programs, afterschool programs, special school events, Nature Lab, loan kits, and multicultural special events.